

Meteor-Heraut

Published by the 80th Area Support Group

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Quick Read

In General

Mailing help offered

The United States Postal Service offers free packing materials to families of deployed military members. Call in the U.S., 800 610-8734. Press 1 for English and then 3 for an operator, and the postal service will send you free boxes, packing materials, tape and mailing labels.

Bands battle

The Army Europe Teen Battle of the Bands/Stars of Tomorrow is Nov. 13, 2 p.m. at "The Zone", formally the Great Escape Club in Hohenfels, Germany. This is a change in location. Open to all U.S. Army Child and Youth Service registered children, 12-18. Sign up at your local youth services or contact Hohenfels Y.S., DSN 466-4492/21.

Belgium

Birthday celebrated

The SHAPE U.S. Marine Corps Element hosts a cake-cutting ceremony to honor the 229th birthday of the Corps Nov. 10, 10 a.m., at the SHAPE Officers Club. This is a change in the previously-announced time and location. Info: William Anderson, DSN 423-5267.

Commissary news

The Commissary on Chièvres Air Base is open Nov. 11, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; open Nov. 22, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; and closed Nov. 25-26. The commissary resumes normal hours Nov. 27. Info: DSN 361-5455.

Education Center news

The NSA Education Center Expo is Nov. 12, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., at CLO Library; General Technical Prep Math Course, is Nov. 8, 10, 15, 17 and 19, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., NSA Education Center. Info: 02 717-9704.

Netherlands and Germany

Families appreciated

Schinnen ACS hosts Military Family Appreciation Day Nov. 18, 4-7 p.m., in the ACS conference room, Building 39. ACS serves a free light dinner with home-made chili. Winners of the collage contest and family recognition packages are announced. The top three entries are displayed in the 254th BSB HQ hallway.

Play performed

Alliance Players Theatre Group presents The Diary of Anne Frank at AFNorth Alliance Theatre in Brunssum, Nov. 12, 13, 19, and 20, 8 p.m.; Nov. 14 and 21, 4 p.m. Admission for NATO ID cardholders and their guests is Euro 5 at the door. Doors open 45 minutes before the performance. Info and directions: go to www.allianceplayers.com or call Sharon Jensen, 49 2456 507-989.

Decision to care for graves leads to intimate history

By Rick Haverinen

The decision of the commander of 80th Area Support Group to honor three U.S. Army colonels from World War II buried at Henri-Chapelle Cemetery in Belgium led to a series of welcome coincidences.

"My commander, Col. Dean Nowowiejski, wanted to look into the process of adopting some resting places of people from about his same experience level and rank," said Lt. Col. Scott Glass, the 80th's S2/S3. "After some searching, he decided on Henri-Chapelle Cemetery where there were three colonels that had been killed in the same wartime incident, and these colonels all belonged to the 104th Infantry Division."

The first coincidence was the 104th Inf. Div. Website announced that veterans from the 104th Div. were planning a trip through Europe in the next couple months.

"We got in touch with the tour guide, and then contacted the secretary of the 104th Inf. Assn. and they welcomed our grave adoption ceremony to be made a part of their tour and wreath laying at Henri-Chapelle," Glass said. "So yes, it was a coincidence."

Glass got flower arrangements to leave at the three graves the 80th ASG wanted to adopt, and drove to Henri-Chapelle Cemetery Oct.



PHOTOS: Rick Haverinen

The 80th Area Support Group wanted to care for the graves of three World War II colonels from the 104th Infantry Div. who were killed in the same incident in Sindorf, Germany toward

the end of the war in 1945. Contacts with the 104th veteran's association opened up an unexpected but welcome stream of information about the officers.

The 104th vets presented a wreath in memory of their comrades who were killed in action. After Taps was played, the Star Spangled Banner played on the cemetery's carillon. A few mem-

with one of the colonels when he was killed.

"Col. George Smith was an assistant division commander and had only reported for duty 2-3 days before he was killed," Glass said. "Col. Anthony Touart was the 414th Infantry Regiment commander. He'd been that I believe for a year or so prior to his death. And Lt. Col. Joseph Cummins was the commander of 2nd Bn., 414th Inf. Reg. He had been the battalion commander since they were in the United States and he had helped train them, deploy them and commit them to combat."

"They were in a forward command post of 2nd Bn., 414th Inf. Reg. in Sindorf, Germany on March 1, 1945. They were completing an attack across the Erft Canal and their main objective was the German city of Cologne. They were jumping off the attack when the incident happened. Cummins was planning the attack. Touart, his regimental commander, was visiting him at his command post and Smith, who was visiting Touart at the time, also decided to go up to this house to

visit Cummins, to see how the preparations for the attack were going. Just after midnight, German artillery fire struck the command post. They thought it was from a 16-inch railroad gun that the Germans occasionally used. The shell that hit the house didn't explode, but the house collapsed down on them and the three colonels probably died within arm's reach of each other because they were huddled around a map table. And



The Timberwolves of the 104th Inf. Div.

they're now buried just a few yards apart in Henri-Chapelle Cemetery."

After the veterans had boarded their tour bus, Glass visited the three graves of the colonels, deliberately presented the flowers,

stepped back and saluted each one.

Glass said that by adopting the graves, the 80th ASG makes a commitment to visit the graves and decorate them with flowers at least twice per year.

"It means we accept some responsibility that the graves are cared for and that we visit them and we try to remember whose final resting places they are," Glass said.

See related story on Page 3.



World War II veteran Jack Schwanhauser, president of the 104th Inf. Div. Assn., tells Lt. Col. Scott Glass, 80th Area Support Group S2/S3, how three colonels from his division were killed at the same time. Glass met up with a tour of the 104th vets Oct. 21 at Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery where the officers are buried.

21 to meet up with the 104th Assn.'s tour bus.

About 20 veterans from the "Timberwolves" division plus family members and friends joined Glass in an informal ceremony in which Henri-Chapelle Superintendent David Atkinson presented Glass with the three certificates of grave adoption. Atkinson commented the 80th ASG included the first Americans who have requested to adopt graves in the cemetery. Most people requesting to adopt graves have been Belgians.

bers of the tour group, most of whom are in their 70s and 80s, quietly started singing along, and this was soon picked up by the others. The effect was subdued but extremely moving, especially when thinking about their experiences during the 1940s.

After this part of the ceremony, several veterans told Glass what they knew about the three colonels and the incident in which they perished. That was the second coincidence. One vet that talked to Glass had been on the field telephone

November 11 is Veterans Day

American Battle Monuments Commission cemeteries in the area have ceremonies this date. AFNorth School observes the holiday at Margraten cemetery in the Netherlands at 11:11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Ardennes cemetery in Neuville-en-Condroz is the setting for a 23rd Fighter Sqn. ceremony, time TBA. Call 32 43 714287 for info.

Code Talker explains WWII mission

November is Native American Heritage Month. While this event happened as part of last year's celebration, the story describes one unique way in which Native Americans have demonstrated their patriotism to the country that is truly their own.

By Eric Cramer

Only 280 Marines from the Navajo tribe saw combat duty as "code talkers" during World War II. Samuel Tom Holiday was one of them.

Holiday addressed an enthusiastic crowd at the Pentagon Nov. 12 last year, as part of the Department of the Army's celebration of National American Indian Heritage Month.

Holiday was born in 1924 on a Navajo reservation in Monument Valley, Utah. He said he was 12 years old before he saw a "white man" for the first time.

"I never had an idea what white people looked like at the time," he said. "I was told that white men took the children away from their parents."

He and his brothers hid from government agents who came to send Navajo children to boarding schools. Holiday said he was ultimately caught and forced to attend a boarding school where he was not allowed to use the Navajo language.

"One of the hardest times I had was learning to talk the English. I would hide cookies in my pockets to pay the older boys to teach me English," Holiday said. "Whenever (the school's instructors) found out I had talked Navajo, they made me scrub the floor, scrub the wall. I spent much of the first year scrubbing the wall."

He attended the school until he was 18, when he was recruited into the Marine Corps.

"A Navajo and a white recruiter came. They told me if

I volunteer, they're going to take care of my mother. They told me they'd pay to buy me a house like the white man's, with running water — which I never got," Holiday said.

He said the Marines sent him to Camp Pendleton, in Oceanside, Calif., where he learned to speak the Navajo code, a codified form of his native language.

"They told us the reason we had to learn the Navajo code was that the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor," Holiday said.

He said it took about two months to learn the code, in which Navajos substituted words from their language for military terms.

"This code did a whole lot of damage to the enemy," Holiday said.

He said he was able to transmit a coded message that led to the destruction of an entire Japanese convoy sent to reinforce Japanese forces on Saipan. "Two days later we got the message that the entire convoy was wiped out, by using the Navajo code. That's how dangerous the Navajo

code was," Holiday said.

At another time, Holiday, a single rifleman and a radio man were sent behind Japanese lines to locate an artillery unit on Iwo Jima that was shelling advancing U.S. forces.

"Finally, the rifleman gave me the message where the artillery was. I sent the message to Marine artillery. They shot a big shell there. The rifleman said it was right on target, so I said that to the Navajo — right on target," Holiday said. He repeated "right on target" in the Navajo language for his crowd.

On two occasions, Holiday was "captured" by U.S. forces who thought he was Japanese.

Holiday felt remorse whenever he saw wounded and killed Japanese soldiers. "They looked like Navajo."

Ultimately, his war experiences led him to a more peaceful calling. He became a Navajo medicine man.

"It gave me a lot of inspiration to become a medicine man. Today I help a lot of people," Holiday said.

The code talker program was kept secret until 1968 and in 1981, president Ronald Reagan recognized the Navajo Code Talkers for their "dedicated service, unique achievement, patriotism, resourcefulness and courage."



PHOTO: Spc. Bill Putnam

Samuel Tom Holiday tells a Pentagon crowd about his experiences as a Navajo "code talker" in World War II.

Even experienced riders must take care

28 October 2004

Bell Sends #3-05

SAFETY Alert

Family Member Killed in Motorcycle Crash

1. The motorcycle carnage continues. A family member who was a licensed motorcycle rider died on Autobahn 63 last Saturday afternoon when he lost control of his bike while traveling at a high rate of speed. He was reported to be an experienced rider, as was the Soldier whose death was described in Bell Sends Message 20-04. He had recently received his bike from the States. At the time of the crash, he was riding with a group of bikers in a posted speed-controlled area. Reportedly, his speed was in excess of 200 kph in an 80 kph zone. This report is yet to be verified in the investigation. He leaves behind a wife and two young children.

2. The crash is currently under investigation. At this time, we can only review and reemphasize the safety lessons we have learned from similar tragedies in the past. * Speed limits are set based on risks identified by authorities responsible for the roads. These limits are lower in certain areas be-

cause of risks that are often not immediately obvious to drivers. Vehicle operators must operate within posted speed limits.

* Time and experience are needed to fully adjust to the controls and the "feel" of a vehicle. Whether you are operating a new or rental vehicle, or a vehicle that you have not used in awhile, take time to get used to it in a low-risk environment. Drivers should be especially careful when "stepping up" in bike or vehicle performance level.

* Group dynamics can involve powerful psychological stimuli that are not easy to counteract. When traveling as part of a group, people can easily lose their identity, while gaining a feeling of power and immunity to danger. When this happens, they may be tempted to show off and take risks as they try to outdo each other.

* Personnel who organize off-duty trips involving multiple vehicles should follow the military convoy risk-assessment and man-

agement procedures in AE Pamphlet 385-15 and AE Pamphlet 385-15-1. The "senior occupant" and "convoy commander" concepts for maintaining vehicle discipline, as outlined in Army in Europe Command Policy Letter 3, apply to off-duty travel as well.

* Our Under the Oak Tree policy concepts are as valid for family members as they are for Soldiers. Sponsors should consider adopting a similar risk-identification and management program for their families.

* Whether riding a bike or driving an automobile, it is imperative to use protective equipment. Motorcycles offer riders essentially no physical protection. A helmet, motorcycle leathers, boots, and reflective markings are required and can save your life. When traveling by automobile, be sure to use seatbelts, whether you are in the front or rear seat. You can greatly reduce the likelihood of dying in an accident by simply buckling up.



Gen. B. B. Bell

3. On 22 October 2004, I provided senior commanders and other leaders the most recent Army Safety Center vehicle-fatality analysis. This analysis shows that people who habitually drive or ride at speeds inappropriate for the conditions (which is not always the same as the speed limit) and those who show off—such as by doing "wheelies" on the road—are high-risk individuals. These individuals inevitably crash their vehicles and are often seriously injured or killed. I expect leaders to identify these individuals and take appropriate steps to modify their high-risk behavior, to include taking appropriate administrative or disciplinary action to hold them accountable for their actions when warranted.

4. Whether you are a Soldier, civilian, or family member, each of you is an important part of this great team. Be safe. We need every one of you as we continue to execute with excellence, Any Mission, Anywhere.

B. B. BELL
General, USA
Commanding

Thursday afternoons set aside for professional development

By Rick Haverinen

Civilian employees in the 80th Area Support Group are getting used to the idea that they have command blessing to learn new skills for a couple hours on Thursday afternoons.

"I've been going out every Thursday just to see if folks are training, to see if they know about the program," said Steve Young, Deputy to the Garrison Commander, 80th ASG. "Last week I went around this area, and I was pleasantly surprised. There were people actually doing some training. The Directorate of Public Works was doing a mass briefing."

Young and 80th ASG Commander Col. Dean Nowowiejski created Civilian Professional Development Time, or CPDT, in late September to have a program that mirrors the Army Sergeant's Time on the same weekday.

"I'm always doing some kind of training," Young said, "and we thought why



Yves Macquet, an 80th ASG supply technician, learns how to be a supply software administrator during Civilian Professional Development Time Oct. 28.

don't we institutionalize this for everyone's benefit? Honestly, a trained workforce is a better workforce. It benefits the individual and the organization. If we have a leadership issue, the first thing we ask is, 'What kind of leadership training has this supervisor had?' And nine times out of ten you find, they haven't had that much supervisory training. Or if you have a person who's a technician, how come they can't use Excel?"

The program is for GS, NAF and host nation employees in the 80th ASG, NATO Support Activity in Brussels, and the 254th Base Support Bn. in Schinnen, the Netherlands. Because of the fixed day of the week and 3 p.m. to closing time, the program will probably work best for correspondence courses and learning done via the Internet, such as Army Smart Force e-Learning.

"The Navy started it first and it was

called Navy e-Learning," Young said. "There must be literally hundreds of courses there, computer courses, leadership courses, whatever you want. You take the course on line, take the test, and when you're done you print your certificate. There are a million free training opportunities out there."

The Web address for Army e-Learning is <https://usarmy.skillport.com/rkusarmy/login/usarmylogin.cfm>

Young said reaction to the program has been encouraging.

"So far it's been very positive," Young said. "A supervisor with foresight and management skills will have no problem with it. I've gotten a lot of good feedback

from employees. Some employees just rave about it, because any employee that has ambition to better themselves says, 'Thank you for giving me the time to pull out my yellow books, those Army correspondence courses.'"

Young said he plans to track directorate and employee participation in the program.

For more information call Young at 361-1310.

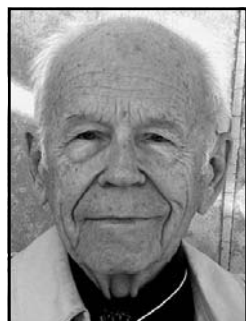


Young

104th Div. vets share WWII memories

About 20 World War II veterans from 104th Infantry Division visited Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery with family and friends Oct. 21. The Meteor-Heraut spoke with two vets.

"I was with the first scouts and I lasted five weeks on the front lines which I think was pretty damn good," said Grandon Tolstedt of



Tolstedt

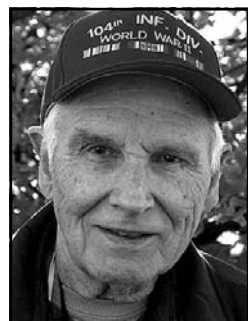
Bismark, N.D., who during the war was assigned to Co. A., 414th Inf. Reg. "We were attacking between Stolberg and Eschweiler, Germany, and we were down in a ravine and the Germans had us zeroed in with their mortars. And they just clobbered us. The next day they went around another way and took the site without any trouble at all. It's was just one of those things. But I wasn't with them the next day. I was in the hospital almost two years afterwards with some bad wounds in my arms and legs but I got over that."

Frank Strebel was in the cemetery looking for Sam Chapman's grave.

"I found it," Strebel said. "He was killed, and the next day his brother, who was in another division, came over to visit. We had to tell him his brother got killed that night before. Sad occasion."

Strebel was assigned to Co. F., 413th Inf. Reg. He now lives in Alameda, Calif.

"We attacked Lamersdorf and we were shelled coming into the town," Strebel said. "When that stopped, I went over to talk with the battalion commander, and a mortar shell came down between us, and killed him and



Strebel

wounded me in the leg. I picked the right spot because the battalion aid station was next door. And they moved us into the building but bullets were coming through the windows. So we had to go downstairs but they couldn't get a litter down around the corner of these narrow stairs. So I had to get off the litter while

they bounced me down step by step. And they gave us a shot of morphine and we were out of it. So I was talking to the doc-



PHOTO: Rick Haverinen

About 20 vets from 104th Inf. Div. Assn. held a ceremony at Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery Oct. 21 to honor their comrades killed in action.

tor at this last reunion we had, and he said we were down there two days. I thought we were only down there until it got dark."

Checks clear faster, become more difficult to 'float'

"Check 21" is now law in the U.S. and changes how banks move funds to pay for checks we all write. Here is a capsule of the changes prepared by the Federal Reserve Board:

Because of Check 21 and other check-system improvements, your checks may be processed faster. Before you write a check, make sure that your account has enough money to cover it.

You may be a banking customer who doesn't receive canceled checks with your account statements. Instead, you may receive digital images of your checks, a list of paid checks, or a combination. Check 21 will have little or no effect on these practices.

On the other hand, if you do get your canceled checks back in your account statements, you may notice some changes. For example, your bank may start send-

ing you a combination of original checks and substitute checks in your statements. You may use a canceled substitute check as proof of payment just as you would use a canceled original check.

You may receive substitute checks in other circumstances. For example, your bank may give you a substitute check if you ask to have a particular canceled check back to prove a payment. Also, your bank might provide a substitute check when returning a "bounced" check that you deposited into your account.

By law, your bank may not pay a check from your account unless you authorized it. In other words, you are protected from having your bank pay the same check from your account more than once or from having your bank pay the wrong amount. Check 21 does not change these protections. However, Check 21

does give you special rights if you receive a substitute check from your bank.

Some banks find that exchanging electronic images of checks with other banks is faster than physically transporting paper checks. In certain circumstances, however,



banks may need to use a paper check and Check 21 allows a bank to create and send a substitute check that is made from an electronic image of the original.

Check 21 provides a special process that allows you to claim a

refund, also known as an expedited recredit, when you receive a substitute check from a bank and you think there is an error. For example, you may think you were charged twice for the same check.

You may use a special process for a refund of the money you lost. The amount of your refund is limited to the amount of your loss or the amount of the substitute check you received, whichever is less, plus interest on that amount if your account earns interest.

If you notice a problem with a substitute check, you should contact your bank as soon as possible, but no later than 40 days from the date your bank provided the substitute check or from the date of the statement that shows the problem.

What if I have questions about substitute checks?

Contact your bank.

Visit the online information on Check 21.

Contact your state's consumer protection agency or attorney general's office for information.

Remember . . .

When a bank uses substitute checks, your checks may be processed faster. Be sure you have enough money in your account to cover the checks that you write.

Always review your account statement to make sure the charges are correct.

If you receive something other than a substitute check, be aware of your rights to resolve errors under other state and federal laws.

Contact your bank right away if you notice an error in your account.

For more information go to <http://www.federalreserve.gov/paymentsystems/truncation/default.htm>

598th Transportation Group suffers loss of Joel Cajudo

By 598th Trans. Group PAO

Capelle aan den IJssel, NL – The 598th Transportation Group was informed Oct. 15 of the sad news that Joel P. Cajudo, a transportation planner with the 598th Deployment Plans Section, had passed away at the age of 50. Cajudo was hospitalized at the "IJsselland Hospital" in Capelle aan den IJssel since early October.

Joel joined the 598th Jan. 26, 2004 to provide distribution and deployment planning support for the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC) and ultimately, the Combatant Commanders. His efforts directly influenced the prosecution of the ongoing war on terrorism and were quite essential to the success of the organization.

Before working with the 598th, Cajudo was a medical logistics planner for the Naval Medical Logistics Command at Fort Detrick, Md.

Joel was a 24-year Navy veteran who enlisted in June 1974. After training at Camp Pendleton, Calif., he served with the First Marine Division. He also served in naval hospitals in Guam and Jacksonville, Fla. Joel was trained as a specialized operating room technician and was assigned onboard numerous United States Navy ships including the USS Iwo

Jima, USS Forrestal, USS Saratoga, USS Takelma, USS Samuel Gompers and USS Leftwich. Joel also served as a medical planner and joint medical regulating officer for the Command Surgeon at Camp Smith, Hawaii and he was a member of the Joint Casualty Resolution Team during their exploration of an area north of Hanoi, Vietnam.



Joel Cajudo

from Central Michigan University.

Joel was an energetic and inquisitive person who enjoyed a special bond with each individual.

"His family was number one in Joel's life and you knew this by how proudly he spoke of them and the

sacrifices he made each day to ensure they could achieve their goals and dreams. I will miss his positive attitude, analytical conversations, and the personal experiences that he brought to myself and our organization each and every day," said his chief and colleague, John Fisher.

"Joel always had a smile to share. He was so easy to talk to. I remember one afternoon this summer when he stopped by my office. We spent about 20 minutes just talking about our kids and their schools and what a great opportunity it was for them to be here. I remember going home that night and telling my husband what a great guy Joel was, just a genuinely nice guy. I will always miss his smile," said Velvet Taylor, 598th para-legal specialist.

"Our condolences go to Raquel, his wife, Joel's children and his entire family. Joel will be sorely missed. He was an exemplary government employee, a great colleague and an outstanding member of our team," said Col. Gary Stanley, 598th Transportation Group commander.

All members of the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command's 598th Transportation Terminal Group extend their condolences to the Cajudo family and wish them strength during this difficult time. Cajudo is survived by his wife Raquel Calma, daughter Tarja, 17, and son Jedidiah, 14. Cajudo will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery.

Schinnen tests emergency teams' ability to respond



Original photo by Henk Saive

By Sylvia Bowron

The Schinnen military community staged a mass casualty exercise Oct. 22 to test the emergency capabilities of first responders from the 254th Base Support Battalion and the host nation.

The scenario consisted of an explosion occurring around 8 a.m. in the Burger King at the Emma Mine Complex. The local civilian fire and police departments worked together with the base's first responders, including local national personnel and Dutch military police. In this exercise there were one death and nine injuries.

"The function of the Casualty Collection Center (CCC) team is to minimize the loss of life, maximize the operational awareness of victim transport and provide family support," said Wallace Turner, Acting Army Community Service Officer. "The CCC team is comprised of morale, welfare and recreation directorate personnel, the chaplain, and other military community representatives."



PHOTO: Staff Sgt. Brian Lamar

Koo Sturmans, a host nation employee in the 254th BSB Directorate of Logistics, cares for a role-playing "victim."



PHOTO: Staff Sgt. Brian Lamar

Schinnen city firemen walk through the smoke-filled Burger King looking for injured people during the Oct. 22 mass casualty exercise at Emma Mine Complex in Schinnen.

254th BSB Local Calendar

Army Community Service - Relocation Assistance: *Newcomer's Briefing*, Nov. 6, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., ACS, Building 39/43, Info, DSN 360-7512. New Parent Education and Support Program, Program Manager Michelle Tucker, DSN 360-7335: *Infant Massage Class*, Nov. 16, 10 a.m., ACS Conference Room; *Playgroup for Toddlers*, Nov. 18, 25, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Schinnen Sports Center; *OB Orientation/Prenatal Education Class*, Nov. 8, 10 a.m.-noon, GK Clinic conference room; *La Leche League breastfeeding support group*, Nov. 17, 24, 10 a.m., Schinnen ACS conference room. Info: DSN 360-7500.

Newcomer's briefing - ACS has a Newcomer's Orientation Briefing Nov. 19, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., including a walking tour of Schinnen, visiting housing office, Community Bank, credit union, bowling center, PX, DOL, DCA, etc. The trip from Schinnen includes going to Treekbeek, Geilenkirchen Base, and Joint Forces Command Brunssum (formerly AFNORTH.) The tour will stop at Heerlen Hospital, and participants will receive information on Tri-care. A walk through Heerlen includes information on the train and bus station. Bring

about 10 Euros for lunch and extra Euros for shopping.

A BOSS meeting is Nov. 18, 2 p.m., at a new location, JFC-Brunssum (formerly AFNorth) U.S. Delegation Building, Delegation Room.

Schinnen Fitness and Sport - Taebo and Kickboxing every Monday and Wednesday, 6-7 p.m.; Step Aerobics every Tuesday and Thursday, 6-7 p.m.; Body Balance Thursdays, 5-6 p.m.

The Pin Point Café has Saturday morning breakfast just like State-side, 9-10:30 a.m. During November, the Schinnen Recreation Plaza has special events on Fridays. Memories Lane Lounge has a social hour with free finger snack food every Friday starting at 4 p.m. If you show your active duty or retired ID card Nov. 12, bowl for just \$1. UK Night is Nov. 19, 6-9 p.m. Show a British ID and bowl for \$1. Thanksgiving weekend Nov. 26-28, get three strikes in a row and you get that game free.

Schinnen Bowling Center has Family Bowling in celebration of Military Family Month Nov. 14 and 21, 1-3 p.m. First come, first to bowl; Cosmic Bowling is every Friday, 6 p.m. Info: DSN 360-7207 or 46 443-7207.

The Schinnen Fitness Center ex-

tends their operation to seven days a week. New hours are Monday-Friday, 6 a.m.-8 p.m.; and on weekends and holidays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Info: DSN 360-7561.

Indoor Swimming Pool - Open Tuesday to Friday, 4-7 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, noon-4 p.m. Enjoy the indoor pool or take advantage of instructional classes. Catered parties or special events are available for a nominal fee.

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony is Dec. 9, 5:30 p.m., Schinnen Sports Center. Special features are "Pictures with Santa" and children's amusement rides.

Hourly child care - Parents in the Schinnen and Geilenkirchen areas have several options available for hourly childcare. The 254th BSB Child Development Center (CDC), Brunssum offers space-available hourly care for children 6 weeks-12 years of age. A parent may make up to three reservations within a 30 day period or can call to check on availability if morning care is needed. The center is open 7 a.m.-6 p.m. Children may not be dropped off at naptime, noon-2:45 p.m. Cost for hourly care is \$2.50 an hour. Info: CDC, DSN 364-2575 or 045 526-2575. The Geilenkirchen CDC also offers space-available hourly care

for children 12 months-12 years. Parents may call up to 2 weeks in advance or on the day care is needed. Priority is given to parents needing care for medical appointments. The CDC is open 7:15 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Hourly charge is \$2.50 an hour. Info: 49 2451 63-2216. Another option is the Canadian facility, Kinder Corner, for children 12 months-12 years. Reservations: 49 2451 71-7221. The hourly rate is Euro 3 or Euro 23 per day. School-aged children may attend this facility before and after school. Transportation is provided and the fee for this program is Euro 5 for either the before or after time slot. Another solution for hourly childcare is a family child care home. For a list of FCC providers, contact central enrollment, DSN 364-6221 or 045 563-6221.

Parents Night Out - If you need a night to yourself, want a romantic evening out or just want to get together with adult friends, the 254th BSB Child Development Center will take care of your children. Parent's Night Out is 5-9 p.m. and children can be brought in their pajamas. The children will be cared for by highly-qualified professionals who provide a wide variety of activities. Children do arts and crafts, sing songs, eat a

snack, and make new friends. Parent's Night Out dates are Nov. 19, Dec. 17, Jan. 21, Feb. 18, Mar. 18, Apr. 15, May 20, and Jun. 17. Child care is offered for children 6 weeks-12 years of age. Cost is \$12.50 for the first child and \$10 for each additional child in a family. Info or reservations, DSN 364-2575 or 045 526-2575.

Military Family Month - Schinnen ACS and Geilenkirchen Family Support Center showcase their programs and resources in the PX lobby. You will also receive instructions for a family collage contest, family recognition nomination forms, YMCA art and essay contests or use these Web links for information. Armed Services YMCA family month, http://www.asymca.org/family_month.htm; 2005 YMCA Art Contest entry forms, http://www.asymca.org/Art_Contest/Art_Contest_2005/Art_Flyer.pdf; 2004 YMCA Art contest winner's poster, http://www.asymca.org/Military_Family_Month/MFM_Poster_2004.pdf; 2005 Essay Contest entry forms, http://www.asymca.org/essay_contest.htm. Info about Military Family Month, Ed Carter at Schinnen ACS, DSN 360-7500 or 046 443 7500.

Military families are highly prized

Every year since Ronald Reagan was in the White House as President of the United States, we have marked November as Military Family Month. I'd like to thank all the spouses, children and other military dependents for standing by and supporting our soldiers this year. Your contribution to our nation's defense does not go unnoticed and we owe you a large debt of gratitude for the many family sacrifices you have made to support the ongoing global war on terrorism, at home and abroad.

I hope you fully appreciate the impact you have had in defending our nation. When your loved one is deployed, whether it is to a country halfway around the world or a



Lt. Col. Richard S. Richardson

location in the United States, a phone call, E-mail or letter from you makes all the difference in trying times.

And, soldiers realize that the car and washing machine usually break down just days after they hop on a plane for another deployment, but you take it in stride and keep the home fires burning until their return. There are countless holidays, anniversaries, birthdays, graduations and other once in a lifetime events that are missed, but not forgotten. At the end of a deployment, nothing matches the smiles, embraces, screams, or tears of joy from spouses and children as soldiers return home from a long journey.

Carmen and I sincerely thank

all the family members for all you do for our nation and

the Army. To the military members who read this, remember: the Army is your career and it lasts a limited amount of time, but your family lasts a lifetime.

We are all in the Army family and we go through tough times and uncertain periods as we fight the war on terrorism.

Along the way, please don't forget your family nor take their love for granted. They are special and they alone bring joy into our lives as long as we draw breath on Earth.

In appreciation of "Month of the Military Family", The Schinnen Army Community Center will be organizing various activities around the base during the month of November. I hope that all members of our 254th BSB family

will take part in the services provided through the ACS.

Thank you for your dedicated family support, at home, and in our thoughts and hearts while deployed.

Richard S. Richardson, LTC, USA

Garrison Commander, 254th BSB

Six Qualities of Strong Families

Commitment: The foundation on which strong families are built.

Appreciation: Genuine compliments bring about good feelings and bolster self-esteem.

Communication: Effective communication skills help during conflict.

Time Together: Recognize the family needs quality time in order to flourish.

Spiritual Wellness: Whether they go to religious services or not, strong family members have a sense of a greater good or higher power in life, and that belief gives them strength and purpose.

Coping Ability: Members of strong families are able to view stress or crisis as an opportunity to grow.

Communication cements families together

One of the most important components of a strong and healthy family is the ability to communicate well with each other. Nothing brings people together like honest, open discussions about the good and the bad things; questions and concerns should be encouraged without fear of criticism, judgment or ridicule.

The month of November is recog-

nized as the "Month of the Military Family." Many military families face different situations with mobility, long separations, and the thought of being called into conflict at a minute's notice as common stressors. America's military families support a force that is truly ready and effective, and believe in the mission and provide support.

The Army Community Service (ACS) is a valuable resource for the military family as well as for the single military member. Many workshops, briefings, and trainings are tailored for the family. From parenting to employment and Relocation Assistance to local information and referral the ACS is your #1 resource for all your needs.

To military families around the world: You have the gratitude of your nation for your patriotism, your sacrifices, and for your daily contributions. In this season of Thanksgiving, it is appropriate to honor you who serve both at home and abroad in the defense of our wonderful "free" nation.

THANK YOU!

Torch Club ignites new board members

By Sylvia Bowron

The 254th BSB Youth Services Torch Club's new board members met with Lt. Col. Richard S. Richards, Garrison Commander, Oct. 18 to discuss issues affecting youth in the community. The new board members are Emily Dworak, President; Natalie Watson, Vice President; and Justine Bumpers, Secretary.

The Youth Services Torch Club consists of youth in grades 6-8. All members must be registered members of

Youth Services. According to Kathryn Thomas, the club's advisor, the club is a group of eight to 15 young people who develop and implement their own activities. "The primary focus is to develop leadership skills. They get together and identify needs in the community and actively develop ways to participate in community events and programs," Thomas said.

This past year the group collected used DVD's and videos and sent them to troops in Iraq. Some other events

they participated in were youth appreciation night, and dances. At last years Christmas tree lighting ceremony they provided cookies, cakes, hot soups, hot chocolate and drinks for those who attended (for donations).

The Torch club plans on meeting with the 254th BSB commander on a regular basis and invites other youth to join them. For more information on the Torch Club contact one of the board members above or Thomas at Youth Services.

Leisure Activities

compiled by Rita Hoefnagels

Nov. 6-7: National Aviation Fair at Aviodrome in Lelystad (NL). Entry: Euro 13.50; children (4-12) Euro 11.50, Info: 31 900 284-6376.

Nov. 11: Opening Carnival Season (11 a.m.-8 p.m.) in the center of Maastricht (NL) with parade, brass bands and lots more.

Nov. 11-14: "La Table en Fête", an attractive fair on the theme of 'a stylish set table for Christmas' at "Grote Kerk" in the center of Naarden (NL) with antique and modern china, silverware, interior design and decorations, wines and delicatessen. Entry: Euro 11. Info: www.latablefeerbeurs.nl or 31 35 694-5211.

Nov. 12-14: Horse and Carriage, an equestrian sports and carriage fair at Brabantallen in Den Bosch (NL). Info: 31 73 629-3911; **Motorsale**, motorcycle enthusiasts can find everything they need at Autotron in Rosmalen (NL). Entry: Euro 12.50. Info: 31 73 523-3300.

Nov. 16-21: Winter Fair at Jaarbeurs in the center of Utrecht (NL). Includes a large Christmas market; a Christmas town and a Scandinavian village with ice-skating rink. Open: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. En-

try: Euro 16. Info: 31 30 295-5911.

Nov. 17-21: "Woonmecca", the most important living/interior fair of the Euregion takes place at the MECC in Maastricht (NL). Open: Wednesday-Friday, 1-10 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Entry: Euro 7.50; children (6-12) Euro 3.50.

Nov. 19-Dec. 19: Christmas Market at "Gemeentegrot" (Cave) in Valkenburg (NL). Open: weekdays, noon-9 p.m. and weekends, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Info: 31 43 601-2271.

Nov. 19-Dec. 21: Christmas Market at "Fluwelengrot" (Cave) in Valkenburg (NL). Till Dec. 6 open on weekdays, 2-9 p.m. and weekends, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. From Dec. 6 open on weekdays, noon-9 p.m. and on weekends, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Entry: Euro 3.50; children (4-12) euro 1.75. Info: 31 43 609-0110.

Nov. 20-21: Flea Market at Americahall in Apeldoorn (NL). **Flea Market** at MECC in Maastricht (NL). Entry: Euro 3; children (6-12) Euro 2. Open: Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Jewelry Christmas Show at Bovenste Puth 19 in Puth (NL).

Open on both days noon-8 p.m.

Fall Fair for antique and classic cars at Autotron in Rosmalen (NL). Entry: Euro 8; children (4-11) Euro 5. Info: 31 73 523-3300.

Collectors' Fair at "Beursgebouw" in Utrecht (NL). Entry: Euro 10. Info: 31 30 295-5911.

Thru Jan. 9: "The Mysterious Bog People" exhibition at "Drents" Museum in Assen (NL). An international archeological exhibition displaying the most important findings, including mummified bodies, from The Netherlands, Germany and Denmark. Entry is euro 5; children (5-15) euro 2.50. Info: 31 59 237-7773 or www.bogpeople.org.

Thru Feb. 13: Nicholas & Alexandra Exhibition at Hermitage, Nieuwe Herengracht 14 in Amsterdam (NL). The exhibition tells the story of the last Tsar of Russia and his family by means of numerous personal belongings, pictures, and more. Entry: Euro 6. Info: 31 20 530-8751.

Thru Sept. 4: Mummies, a spectacular exhibition of mummies at Rijksmuseum van Oudheden in Leiden (NL). Entry: Euro 6; children (6-17) Euro 5.50. Info: www.rmo.nl.

AFNorth Alliance Theater



Nov. 5, 7:30 p.m. Suspect Zero. Starring Aaron Eckhart, Ben Kingsley. Rated R. FBI Agent Thomas Mackelway investigates the murder of salesman Harold Speck, which turns out to be the first of three seemingly random killings. Or perhaps they are not random at all. The assignment consumes him. His past mistakes haunt him. His head throbs constantly, as he tries to find the link between the victims that will lead him to the killer.

Nov. 6, 3:00 p.m. Superbabies: Baby Geniuses. Starring Jon Voigt, Scott Baio. Rated PG. The baby geniuses find themselves in a race against time to stop a villainous media mogul from using his satellite system to control the minds of the world's population.

Nov. 6, 5:30 p.m. Alien vs. Predator. Starring Lance Henriksen, Sanaa Lathan. Rated R. An ancient pyramid is discovered buried in the ice of Antarctica, and scientists investigating the structure discover something worse: two races of aliens battling for domination. As the two species fight, humans find themselves caught in the middle and becoming casualties.

Nov. 6, 8:00 p.m. Exorcist: The Beginning. Starring Stellan Skarsgard, James D'Arcy. Rated R. Father Merrin thinks that he has glimpsed the face of Evil. In the wake of all he has seen, both his faith in his fellow man and the Almighty have deserted him. He can no longer honestly call himself a man of God. Merrin travels far from his native Holland in a desperate attempt to escape the horrors that he witnessed there. While drifting from place to place, he finds himself in the place where Evil was born.

Nov. 12-19 No Movies —Alliance Players perform.

Brussels Community Calendar

ACS - Information Desk now located in NSA Building 4, third floor; Metro Madness class Nov. 10 and Dec. 3, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; Toddler Play Group every Tuesday 10:00 a.m.-noon, CYS multi-purpose room, call 02 717-9684; National School Lunch program offers free or reduced priced lunches to eligible families, call 02 717-9698 for info; for info on payday loans, call the ACS Relocation Readiness Program Manager, 02 717-9698. Free computer classes: Word, Nov. 15, 8 a.m.-12 p.m.; PowerPoint and Outlook Nov. 15, 1-5 p.m.; Excel Nov. 16, 8 a.m.-12 p.m.; Access Nov. 16, 1-5 p.m., NSA Computer Lab, advance sign-up required. Info: 02 717-9783.

NSA Chapel - Protestant worship, Sundays, 10:45 a.m.; Gospel service, Sundays, 12:30 p.m.; Gospel Sunday School, 11 a.m., NSA conference room; Sunday School for all ages, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; Men of the Chapel meet the first Saturday each month, 9 a.m., NSA Chapel; Protestant Women of the Chapel study Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.-noon, Fellowship Hall; Stewardship Sunday, Nov. 14; Service members Prayer Breakfast Nov. 18, Chapel Cafe. Info: 02 717-9708.

Outdoor Recreation Trips - Paris, Nov. 6, 5 a.m.-11 p.m., \$40 adults, \$33 children; North Sea deep sea fishing, Nov. 13, 4:30 a.m.-8 p.m., 50 Euros plus gear and bait or bring your own; Amsterdam, Nov. 20, 7 a.m.-9:30 p.m., \$40 adults, \$33 children; Canterbury, Nov. 27, 5 a.m.-11 p.m., \$45 adults, \$39 children; Charles Dickens Christmas market, Dec. 4, 5 a.m.-midnight, \$50

adults, \$42 children; Aachen and Monchau Christmas markets, Dec. 11, 7:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m., \$40 adults, \$33 children; Cologne Christmas market, Dec. 18, 7 a.m.-9:30 p.m., \$40 adults, \$33 children. Info, sign-up: Leon Dillien, 474 68 35 44 or 02 717-9775.

Three Star Lounge - New hours: Thursday, 7 p.m.-midnight; Friday, 5 p.m.-1 a.m.; Saturday, 7 p.m.-1 a.m.; Sunday, 7-11 p.m.; Lounge closed Nov. 10, 11, 13 and 25. Movie Night, every Thursday, 7:15 p.m. with free popcorn; Right Arm Night, Nov. 5, 5 p.m., free wings while they last; FRG all-ages talent show and potluck, Nov. 5, 7 p.m.; Karaoke, Nov. 6, 9 p.m.; Open Mike Night, Nov. 12, 8 p.m.; BUNCO, Nov. 20, 7 p.m.; Single Soldiers Thanksgiving Luncheon, Nov. 23, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.; DoD Show, White Eagle Dancers, Dec. 4, 7 p.m.; Spades tournament, Dec. 11, 7 p.m., sign up by Dec. 4. Info: 02 717-9732 or 9639.

Multi-Craft Center - Open: Wednesday-Thursday, 2-9 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Framing classes, Thursdays, 2-6 p.m., \$30; Jewelry making Wednesdays, 6 p.m., \$12. Brussels prints and tapestries for purchase, \$15-\$63; engraving and art restoration services available. Basic adult ceramics, Saturdays, \$30; Children ceramics, Saturdays, \$20; Children's ceramics birthday parties. Wood shop power tools classes by appointment, \$11; Motorcycle classes, Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m., six weeks, \$45; Auto craft classes, Thursdays, 7-9 p.m., \$25; Winter vehicle checks by appointment, \$30. Info or

The American Cancer Society's Great American Smokeout is Nov. 18 when SHAPE Healthcare Facility hands out "Survival Bags" for those interested in quitting at the Chièvres Air Base PX, noon-3 p.m. The annual event is to help millions of Americans quit smoking by encouraging them to quit for a day and "get the ball rolling" for a smoke-free lifetime. In the United States alone, smoking causes nearly one in five deaths, and claims more than 400,000 lives each year. Approximately 46.5 million adults in the United States smoke cigarettes, known to cause chronic lung disease, heart disease and stroke, as well as cancer of the lungs, larynx, esophagus, mouth, and bladder. The first step to giving up cigarettes is a desire to quit. Start by listing reasons for not smoking and set a date to have your last cigarette. Bolster your willpower by reading facts about smoking. Next, choose a smoking cessation program that you are likely to stick with. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says almost 90 percent of successful quitters go "cold turkey." Heavy smokers, however, are more likely to achieve their goal by joining a structured program. The SHAPE Healthcare Facility offers a walk-in tobacco cessation program every Wednesday and Friday, 11 a.m.-noon, in the front screening reception area, or patients may set up an appointment with their primary health care provider for help in stopping tobacco use.

Great American Smokeout November 18



sign-up: 02 717-9629.

Sports and Fitness - Ongoing, self-paced Run For Life program, patches awarded for 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 750 and 1000 miles; Ongoing individual MEDEX training; 5K Turkey Trot, Nov. 20, 8 a.m., Tervuren Park. Info: 02 717-9667.

Child and Youth Services - Teen dance for grades 9-12, Nov. 10, 7-10 p.m., Three Star Lounge. Info: 02 717-9665.

BOSS - Brussels Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers calls all

single armed forces men and women. BOSS aims to improve the overall quality of life for the single soldier through planning recreation and leisure activities and volunteering in the community. Info: 02 707-5343 or email Edward.Garcia@benelux.army.mil.

Library - Open: Tuesday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Friday, noon-7 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday, noon-5 p.m. Story Time for 3-6 year olds, Wednesdays, 1:30 p.m. starting Nov. 10. Info: 02 717-9705.

Consignment Shop - Open Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Info: 02 717-9724.

Installation Volunteer Coordinator - Help is needed for volunteer positions: NSA Fitness Center receptionist and administrative support; ACS Financial Readiness Program instructor; ACS AFAP Conference Assistant; and International Dinner Committee Chair. Info: 02 717-9679.

For more information about events in the Brussels community, visit www.brussels.army.mil.

More 254th BSB Local Calendar

Hanukkah celebrated - The Jewish community of Brunssum-Schinnen-Geilenkirchen celebrates Hanukkah Dec. 11, 4 p.m., at JFC Brunssum Chapel Centre. There will be a special party for the children. Please bring a dish to share. "Latkes" would be especially welcome. Please RSVP to Chris Lark, 045 526-2903, or Jack Segal, 045 526-3378.

CYS surveying customers - The 254th Child and Youth Services is surveying customers to determine the best location for the Central Enrollment Registration Office to better accommodate CYS customers. The existing office is located in the Treebeek Education Center. The customer survey is part of the overall proposal for the CER in regards to force protection, the availability of office space and customer input. Other

CYS programs in the CER are the Family Child Care, Youth Sports and Fitness, and Information and Referral.

ICE and MWR work hand-in-hand - The Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation emphasizes ICE, or Interactive Customer Evaluation, as a vital part of community well-being. Over the past few months, DMWR facilities have ranked among the top programs in ICE responses throughout the Tri-Border community and among the top three in customer satisfaction. DMWR managers closely monitor ICE activity and keep in contact with service providers to ensure responses to customers are timely and relevant. Patrons wishing to contribute comments can submit them online via <http://ice.disa.mil>. Kudos: The 254th BSB

would like to congratulate Serina Morlock, Jim Huggins and Birgit Davis at the Pin Point Café and Linda Johnson at the Central Enrollment Registration Office of the Child and Youth Services program on their excellent customer service they provide the community. The Cafes' team and Mrs. Johnson have received numerous exceptional reviews from their ICE customers.

PWOC Program Night - The Joint Forces Command (JFC) Headquarters Brunssum Protestant Women of the Chapel will hold their November Program Night Nov. 15, 7 p.m., in the chapel's American Room. PWOC is a night of fellowship for women of the chapel. Each program night has a different theme and is combined with food, friendly conversation and fellowship. All

women are invited to come. Child care is available if needed. Info: Cindy Mykrantz, 31 45 527-4131.

November school break activities - Parent/Teacher conferences are Nov. 16-18 and there is no school Nov. 19. Activities are planned for the afternoons of that week. Participants must be members if the International Youth Services and sign up for these activities at IYS, Bldg. H-603 by Nov. 11: Nov. 16, Movie trip, cost Euro 5, depart 1:30 p.m., return 6 p.m.; Nov. 17, Lunch trip and sports at AFNorth fields, bring money, depart 1 p.m., return 5 p.m.; Nov. 18, Bowling at Schinnen Bowling Center, cost \$1 for shoes and \$1 per game, depart 1:30 p.m., return 4:30 p.m.; Nov. 19, swimming trip, cost Euro 20, depart 9 a.m., return 6 p.m.

Geilenkirchen Local Calendar

The Geilenkirchen Family Support Center hosts a Month of the Military Family celebration with the Winter Woods Walk, Nov. 20, 1-3 p.m. at the GK New Gym Pavilion adjacent to the sport fields. It's a family fun walk with free holiday-themed photos and food. Info: GK FSC, DSN 458-6015 or 49 2451 63 3791.

Geilenkirchen Medical Clinic is open Nov. 11, Veteran's Day.

Clinic handbook saves time - Patients who do not have a 470th Medical Flight Clinic Handbook

which lists emergency room directions should be sure to pick up a copy at the Geilenkirchen TRICARE office. The latest edition is dated Dec 2003.

Flu Vaccination Update - Availability of influenza vaccine are severely reduced this season and it is unlikely that most active duty members, civil servants, contractors and their family members will be vaccinated. When flu vaccination is received, high-risk patients and those deploying will be vaccinated, and these patients will be

notified by letter to go to the clinic. It is unknown when flu vaccine will be available for others. If the clinic receives additional vaccine, dates will be set to vaccinate.

Obstetrics orientation classes are Nov. 9 and Dec. 14, 10 a.m.-noon, at the Geilenkirchen Clinic conference room. Presenters include the WIC representative, breastfeeding educator, TRICARE representative, and a childbirth educator. Children and family members are welcome. Info or registration: Michelle, New Parent Support Pro-

gram coordinator, 31 46 443-7335.

Medical benefits for overseas military retirees are very different from those in the United States. TRICARE Prime is not available to retirees living overseas and retirees who reach age 65 must enroll in Medicare Part B to be eligible for TRICARE for Life benefit. Since the U.S. clinic at Geilenkirchen only offers outpatient family practice services, it is important that retirees understand their specific medical benefits. If you are unfamiliar with your ben-

efits, please stop by the TRICARE office or review the TRICARE Europe Fact Sheets for Retirees which can be found at <http://www.europe.tricare.osd.mil/>. Two very well-written articles are entitled "TRICARE for Retirees Overseas," and "TRICARE for Life Overseas." If you are a retiree living overseas or are planning to retire overseas, please review these articles and ensure you have a plan to obtain medical coverage for any specialty or inpatient care that you may need while living in Europe.

Icicles on chin indicate mazout tank dry

The housing office closes Thursday afternoon, Dec. 23, and reopens Tuesday morning, Jan. 4. Expect local businesses to also have holiday hours. Please prepare for these closures!

Already, as of mid-October, the number one problem for tenants is “No heat.” This can lead to damaged furnaces and plumbing systems, with repair costs of thousands of euros, paid by the tenant.

How to prepare for winter and the housing office closure: Make sure your mazout tank is more than half full. So far, we have had two instances of empty tanks; Know who to call, and what their phone numbers are – landlord, heating, plumbing, and electrical technicians, and your military chain of command. Start with your landlord when the housing office is closed.

The key phrases to communicate “no something” to your landlord are:

“I have no heat.” – “Je n’ai plus de chauffage.”
“I have no hot water.” – “Je n’ai plus d’eau chaude.”
“I have no electricity” – “Je n’ai plus d’électricité.”

For emergency translation assistance, call the PMO at DSN 423-3333. The PMO desk will have a list of heating, plumbing, electrical, window, locksmith, and other technicians who are available during the holidays. If you contact a technician without your landlord’s knowledge or approval, you could have to pay the bill, even if the problem was not your responsibility. Technicians like to take the holidays off, too; don’t expect an immediate response. (This also applies out of the holiday season; if you call for help at 1630 and tell us you’ve had no heat all day, most technicians will

not respond until the next day, or Monday.)

If your mazout tank is outside, ask your provider if it has antifreeze in it. Mazout can solidify at low temperatures and clog the distribution system.

Ensure a certified technician completes annual chimney and furnace maintenance. Preventive maintenance stops problems before they become critical.

Drain and close any outside water lines (garden faucets.) Frozen water will break these pipes, causing flooding and expensive repairs.

Pay bills on time. The furnace must have electricity to work; if your electricity is cut off, you will have no heat.-

Keep the heat set at or above 12



degrees Celsius and radiator settings at or above “2.” If your house gets too cold, the pipes will freeze, burst, and flood.

Sweep and keep clear your sidewalks of ice and snow. If you live in a town and have a sidewalk in front of your house, you could be liable if someone falls.

A final word: if you do have a problem during the holidays, be prepared to pay a lot of money to get it fixed. The laws of supply and demand are in operation. It is better to take preventive maintenance steps and save yourself a great deal of time, money, and aggravation.

SHAPE and Chièvres Community Calendar

Chièvres Air Base PX - Please note that any Email should be sent to harrisongj@aafes.com or robinsonan@aafes.com

Army Community Service - *Anger Management Course*, Nov. 9, 16, 23, 9-10 a.m.; *Job Opportunities Workshop*, Nov. 10, 17, 24, 9 a.m.-noon; *“Take the Train,”* Nov. 26, 8:30 a.m., ACS, Building 318; *Rendezvous with French Language*, Nov. 23, 9:30 a.m.-noon, hotel Maisières. Transiting service members, *“Replacing Your Benefits,”* Nov. 9, 9-10:30 a.m.; *Saving and Investing*, Nov. 16, 9-11:30 a.m., this class helps to achieve a successful economic lifestyle by

teaching you to smartly manage your financial resources and cultivate financial stability that leads to financial growth; *First Term Financial Readiness*, Nov. 30, 8:30-11:30 a.m., this eight-lesson program spans setting a budget to investing and consumer scams, mandatory for first-term Soldiers but helpful to anyone reassessing their financial status-. New Parent Support Program at the SHAPE Health Clinic: *Play Morning*, Nov. 9, 9-11 a.m.; New, *Childbirth Education Class*, Nov. 10, 5-7 p.m.; *Breastfeeding Support Group*, Nov. 16, 11 a.m.-noon. Info: ACS, DSN 423-5777.

Trips and Tours - Thermae 2000 Nov. 6; Ypres, World War I Battlefield Tour, Nov. 11; London Day Trip, Nov. 13; Lakeside Mall (England,) Nov. 20; Amsterdam, Nov. 27. Info: Trips and Tours, DSN 423-5154.

MWR Special Events - Holiday Tree Lighting, Dec. 3, 5-7 p.m., beside PX parking lot, free photos with Santa at PX entrance; AAFES Holiday Bazaar, Dec. 3-5 at the Community Activity Center.

American Red Cross has a fundraising event to support programs such as emergency communications, disaster relief, health and safety programs, international ser-

vices and volunteer programs: Crystal Bingo, Nov. 18, 7 p.m., SHAPE IC Club; Tombola for Svarski crystal chandelier now through Nov. 18, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., American Red Cross office, Building 318, SHAPE, Cost \$/Euro 1 per ticket. Info: Bridget Blixt, DSN 423-4008.

SHAPE Community Recreation- International Basketball Tournament, Nov. 29-Dec. 4 on SHAPE. Teams are from Canada, U.S.A., All Star American Army, Belgium, Czech Republic, Italy, U.K., Russia. Info: Steve Richardson, DSN 423-3905.

Cultural Adaptation Trip Nov. 6,

8:30 a.m., meeting in front of Hotel Le Maisières. Open to U.S. and SHAPE ID card holders and guests. Children are welcome. The trip is free and includes shopping and food sampling. Seating is limited. Stop by ACS located on SHAPE in Building 318 or call DSN 423-5324 or 361-5904.

SHAPE Healthcare Facility is open Nov. 25, 8-10 a.m.; the facility celebrates its unit Christmas party Dec. 17 and will be open 8-10 a.m.; the facility is open Dec. 24-Jan. 3, 8-10 a.m. Any medical emergencies after duty hours, please go to the emergency room at your local civilian hospital.

Holiday season postal help: when to mail, what not to mail

HEIDELBERG, GE — Postal officials at 1st Personnel Command recommend mailing packages early to ensure they reach the United States in time for the holidays.

Letters, cards, and parcels should be mailed from USAREUR APOs by the dates listed below for delivery to stateside addresses prior to Christmas: Nov. 20 SAM parcels; Dec. 4 PAL parcels; Dec. 11 Priority Mail parcels and First Class letters and cards; Dec. 18 Express Mail.

With the holidays approaching, keep in mind items that cannot be mailed or are prohibited entry into the U.S., as you wrap gifts and packages for the States.

Alcoholic beverages (beer, wine, liquor filled candies,) flammable materials (cigarette lighter fluid, matches, oil,) explosives (common fireworks, ammunition,) compressed gases

(aerosol containers, butane, propane,) most weapons, handguns, switchblade knives, foreign meat products (fresh or dried meat, canned meat, meat in soups or sauces,) fresh fruit, plants, Cuban cigars, etc., are some of the items that cannot be mailed through the Military Postal System or are prohibited entry into the United States.

Recently, U.S. Customs officials, in conjunction with the DOD Military Postal Service Agency, have increased their inspections of military mail at selected gateways in the Continental United States. The mailing of alcoholic beverages has been the most “non-mailable” item discovered in parcels dispatched from Military Post Offices in the European Theater. It was noted that the sender either deliberately omitted the alcoholic beverages on the customs declaration or listed something else as the contents. Individuals who deliberately use the Military Postal Ser-

vice to send or attempt to send non-mailable or prohibited items may be subject to prosecution.

The requirement for customers to correctly list each item on their Customs Declarations, attached to parcel mailings, is designed to protect the mailer. When you correctly list all the contents in a parcel, military and civilian postal employees can ensure you don’t unknowingly violate postal and customs regulations by attempting to place non-mailable items in the Military Postal System.

Remove all batteries from any items to be mailed, such as electric toys, battery-operated shavers, and gifts of this nature.

It is the mailer’s responsibility to ensure non-mailable matter is not placed in the postal system. Contact your local Military Post Office or Customs Office before attempting to mail any questionable articles.



Meteor-Heraut Deadline and Publication Dates

Copy due (noon)	Print Date	Copy due (noon)	Print Date	Copy due (noon)	Print Date	Copy due (noon)	Print Date
Nov. 8	Nov. 19	Dec. 6	Dec. 17	Jan. 14	Jan. 28	Feb. 14	Feb. 25
Nov. 22	Dec. 3	Jan. 3	Jan. 14	Jan. 31	Feb. 11	Feb. 28	March 11

About Us

Meteor-Heraut

The *Meteor-Heraut* is the authorized unofficial Army newspaper published under AR 360-1 for 80th Area Support Group personnel. Editorial content is provided by the 80th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office and the 254th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office. Opinions expressed are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 80th Area Support Group. The *Meteor-Heraut* is published twice per month. Circulation is 3,000. Our mailing address is Meteor-Heraut, HQ 80th ASG, Unit 21419, Public Affairs Office, APO AE 09708. Telephone: DSN 361-5419; fax: DSN 361-5106; civilian telephone prefix: 068-27-5419. The country code for Belgium is 0032. Email address: meteor@benelux.army.mil

Policy

- We encourage letters to the editor, but they must be signed. We will consider withholding the name of the author upon request. Letters regarding an issue should contribute to informational interest.
- We reserve the right to edit all material for style, to fit available space, to resolve libel, safety or force protection issues and to correct grammar.
- Articles in plain text and separate photographic files may be submitted but publication depends upon the judgment of the editor. All submissions should be in electronic form as plain text. We cannot process information in documents such as PowerPoint, Excel or Acrobat.
- Event announcements must use civilian dates and times. Spell out acronyms and include a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. We cannot reproduce prepared flyers in the *Meteor-Heraut*.

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- Neither the *Meteor-Heraut* staff nor other public affairs personnel can accept advertising requests.
- The appearance of advertising, including inserts, does not constitute endorsement of the products or services offered. Everything advertised must be available for purchase, use or patronage, without discrimination.

- Any gambling or lottery requiring payment for chance cannot be advertised as stated in 18 U.S.C. 1302.

Deadline

Copy and photographs are due by noon 10 calendar days before publication date.

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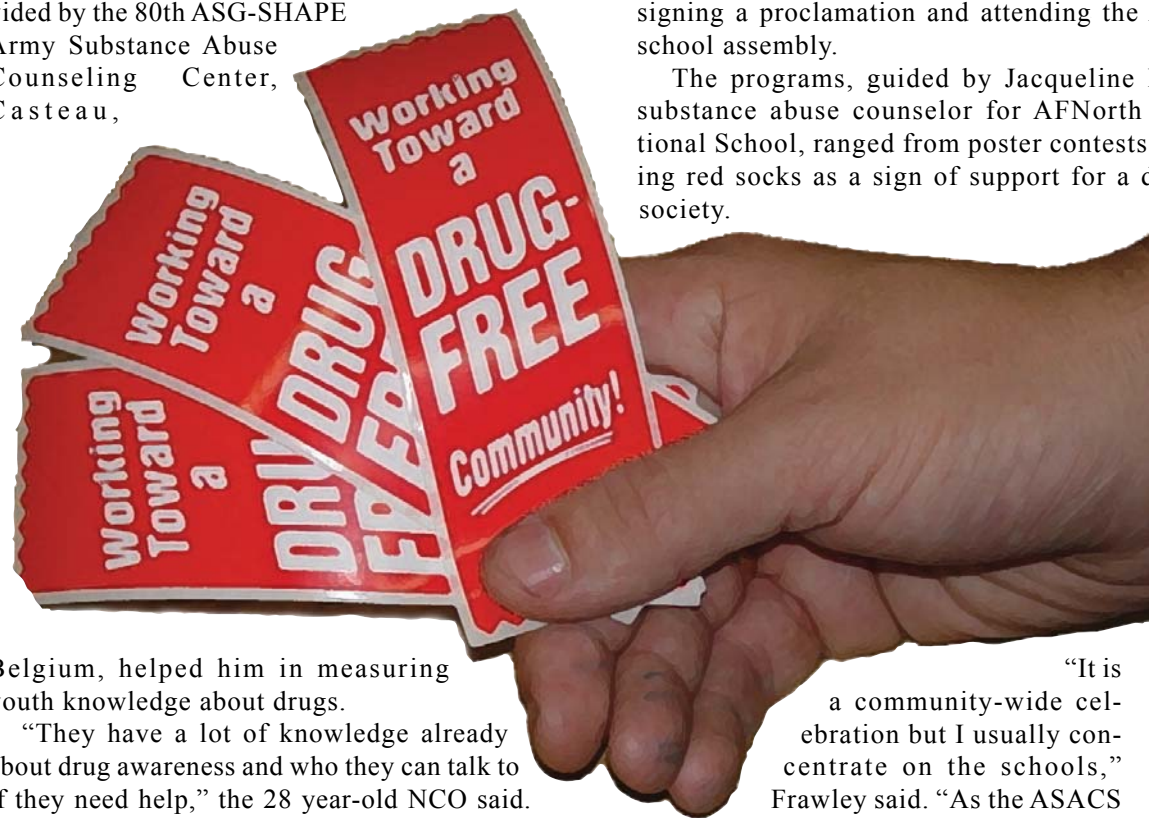
Communities roll out Red Ribbon Week

EDITOR'S NOTE: The recently completed National Red Ribbon Week, an annual October campaign to encourage adults and students to commit to living drug-free lives, was commemorated in a variety of ways at U.S. and international posts and schools throughout the Benelux. The following reports were compiled from various sources by local public affairs offices.

D.A.R.E. officer Sgt. Jeremy Thomas supplemented his regular lessons with Red Ribbon material at Brussels American School.

"It's not really a D.A.R.E. activity," Thomas said, "but it serves to remind the community that there are drug dangers out there and there are people who can help."

Thomas said working with campaign material provided by the 80th ASG-SHAPE Army Substance Abuse Counseling Center, Casteau,



Belgium, helped him in measuring youth knowledge about drugs.

"They have a lot of knowledge already about drug awareness and who they can talk to if they need help," the 28 year-old NCO said.

"This is the first time anything tangible was done. It was just something I grabbed and said: 'Let's do it.'"

Thomas stressed that National Red Ribbon Week is not just for schools.

"Next year we should expand it and get out into the community more and into NATO," he said. "The school administrators were helpful in getting me time blocks in the classrooms. It went well."

In the Netherlands and Germany, the Red Ribbon Week theme "Drug Free – I have the Power – Plant the Promise, and related activities were spread through the AFNorth International School as well as the Geilenkirchen school, the Geilenkirchen U.S. Air Force Medical Clinic and Kleine Brogel Elementary School.

254th BSB commander Lt. Col. Richard S. Richardson showed his commitment to the week by signing a proclamation and attending the AFNorth school assembly.

The programs, guided by Jacqueline Frawley, substance abuse counselor for AFNorth International School, ranged from poster contests to wearing red socks as a sign of support for a drug-free society.

counselor my role in Red Ribbon Week is as much as I want. This year I attempted to include all of the local elementary schools in our BSB."

Frawley noted that she is a firm believer that awareness and prevention must start early.

While Frawley said it is difficult to measure success of Red Ribbon Week, awareness is the key element for adults and children.

"Over the years drug abuse has changed as have the students," she said. "I am able to help those students who are aware that their use can cause problems. Several years ago I was able to help students stop using ecstasy and decrease alcohol abuse."

The earlier parents get involved, the better. Parents can make the difference," she said. "I also try to involve parents by educating them about signs to look for and helping them develop a drug-free child."

National Red Ribbon Week began in California in 1985 after the murder of Enrique Camarena, a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agent. His family wore badges of red satin as a symbol of their promise not to forget him and to keep fighting against drugs in American society.

Army working to build joint expeditionary capabilities

By Kelli R. Petermeyer

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, Oct. 29, 2004) — Developing a force with joint expeditionary capabilities has become more important than ever before, according to Army officials.

Joint operations leaders met Oct. 26 at the Association of the United States Army annual meeting to discuss the constantly changing war environment and the role jointness plays in overcoming the enemy.

"We're joint now down to the company level," said Gen. Kevin P. Byrnes, commanding general, Training and Doctrine Command.

After asking noncommissioned officers and junior officers about what training would have helped them better prepare for in-theater operations, Byrnes said they told him they wanted more joint training.

"In theater they're learning on the job and getting valuable experience," Byrnes said. They are using joint terms and joint technology, but we're not doing enough to train them for that beforehand.

Iraq and Afghanistan are sustained combat operations, Byrnes said. It is not all about just moving quickly — it is about being able to operate in unknown areas.

Through combined arms warfare, the services can rely on each other to complete the mission, he said.

"We seek to become interdependent, service on service — a combat team," Byrnes said. "We expect a long war. War has become a steady state environment. The force will remain capable of full spectrum operations."

"We are focusing on a data strategy so that our systems speak the same language," said Byrnes.

Training is continuously becoming more joint to fully prepare troops for future operations.

The pilot program for the Joint Fires and Effects Course began this fall at the Field Artillery School, Fort Sill, Okla., and Unified Quest 04, this year's war game at Carlisle Barracks, Pa., was the second

consecutive game to focus on joint capabilities in a war setting.

Units are sharing ideas with each other on Web sites, Byrnes said. The information is assessed so the ideas can be put into place and others can use them.

Within one week after Saddam was captured, spider holes and caves were incorporated into training programs so Soldiers would be better prepared for situations that could arise in that type of terrain, Byrnes said.

"The partnership with Joint Forces Command has never been more important," he said.

JFCOM brings a joint context to the fight, said Air Force Maj. Gen. James N. Soligan, chief of staff, JFCOM. It has the ability to bring together skills and talents from all services and find common ground and joint solutions.

Joint Task Force headquarters focus a tremendous amount of time on finding common ground for faster collaboration, Soligan said. They also spend a lot of time on joint urban operations.

Joint transformation takes hard work and commitment from all players, Soligan said. The environment and the enemy are both changing fast, so we need to be able to change fast as well, he said.

In the arena of constant changes, it is critical to be able to alter and challenge doctrine almost as it's written, said Maj. Gen. Wood, director for Joint Experimentation, J-9, JFCOM.

"Within the Army, we have to make ourselves as deployable as possible," said Brig. Gen. David A. Fastabend, director, Concept Development and Experimentation, Futures Center, TRADOC. The Army needs help from the other services to do that effectively, he said.

This story replaces another in the printed version of the Meteor-Heraut and that we could not include here because of copyright restrictions.

The right priority

By Marilyn Brulez, 80th ASG Driver Testing Station

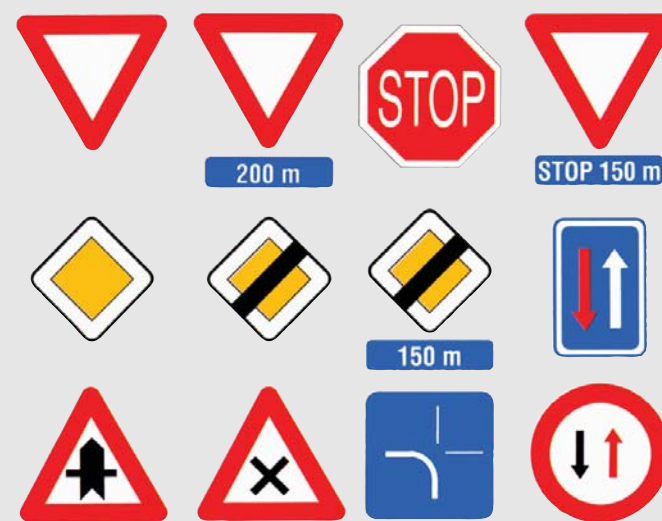
Recently, a number of questions have arisen concerning the "priority to the right" rules applicable in the BENELUX. The following information prepared by the 80th ASG DOL Driver Testing Station (DTS,) may be of use to you in better understanding this rule. If you have any questions, please contact DTS for further clarification at DSN 423-4571.

Priority to the right rule in the BENELUX

The priority to the right is an automatic rule that applies to the following conditions only:

1. There must be at least two drivers. There is no priority to the right between a driver and a pedestrian.
2. The drivers must approach the intersection at the same moment.
3. The rule applies only at unmarked intersections.

An unmarked intersection is any intersection where there are no: Qualified agents, such as traffic control personnel; Operational traffic lights, such as tricolor lights; Road markings painted on the ground; or priority road signs such as these:



The priority to the right sign, a black X in a red triangle, is nothing but a reminder of the rule. You will only see it at some dangerous intersections. So do not expect to see the sign at every intersection.

One peculiarity of the priority to the right rule is that it does not apply if the intersection is comprised of a paved road and a dirt road. Drivers on the paved road have priority.



This sign means you are approaching an uncontrolled intersection and to yield to traffic on the right. There are many intersections with no warning signs at all where you still must yield to traffic on the right.

Each time you drive on a road and approach (1) a totally unmarked intersection or (2) an intersection marked with the priority to the right sign, you must yield to drivers approaching from the right.